



*"People  
helping people  
help  
themselves"*

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor  
State of Indiana

**Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services**  
402 W. WASHINGTON STREET, P.O.Box 7083  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46207-7083

Cheryl G. Sullivan, Secretary

December 19, 2003

All Consumers, their Families, Guardians, and Advocates:

As you may have heard, the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) is making policy changes that directly relate to the services you or your family member have been receiving.

Due to rising costs and a growing waiting list for services, we have been trying to make every adjustment possible to contain our growing deficit and meet additional consumer needs. Those initial attempts were successful, but not nearly enough to reduce our mounting deficit.

Over the past few months, we have conducted intensive research and review of what BDDS can do to reduce expenditures and the deficit while causing the least amount of change for consumers. These new policies are consistent with our overall mission: serving the greatest number of people possible with limited resources, focusing on the health and safety of our clients and protecting basic services for the future.

On December 15, BDDS staff reviewed these changes with case managers, providers, service coordinators and executives of the Indiana Association of Rehabilitative Facilities (INARF) and The ARC. We expect they will take that information back to your teams and discuss what those changes will mean to you and your family.

Before the new policies were finalized, BDDS staff reviewed all of the proposed changes with a group of consumers, advocates, and providers and case managers before making a final decision. That meeting went well. Some of those talks indicate more of a need to change the way we look at and think about supports. We will all be challenged to be more creative and dependent on other resources in our communities.

Your role as a consumer or family member is key in this process. We need your help. It's extremely important to us that you understand what is being asked of you, as well as understanding the time frames and resources to help with the work. The changes will result in new individualized budgets for everyone. Your case manager or provider will assist you in this process by receiving all information and training needed.

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Of course, we will continue to work with each family and consumer on a case-by-case basis to serve you in the best manner possible. We wish we did not have to take these measures, but we must work together to ensure that the health and safety of our consumers remains intact now and in the future.

Again, we would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and believe that, if we all work together, we will continue to enhance the quality, safety, health and security of those we serve. If you would like to review the information shared with the providers, it is on the Internet at [WWW.in.gov/fssa/servicedisabl](http://WWW.in.gov/fssa/servicedisabl). “Cost Containment”

Sincerely,

Carmela Barrett  
Director  
Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services

CB:cc